Kissinger Plot Jury Continues

By Betty Medsger
Washington Post Staff Writer

HARRISBURG, Pa., April 19—FBI agents testified before a federal grand jury here today in what appears to be a considerably expanded effort to investigate the Catholic radical movement.

Seven of more than 20 persons subpoenaed last week were scheduled to testify, but all refused, pending a hearing Tuesday on motions that the subpoenas be withdrawn.

The questions of FBI agents have led most of the persons under subpoena to speculate that this grand jury is investigating more than the alleged conspiracy to kidnap presidential adviser Henry Kissinger and to bomb heating systems under federal buildings in Washington, D.C.

The prospective witnesses and their attorneys say the investigation also appears to be aimed at indicting persons who have raided numerous draft offices, particularly on the East Coast, in the past two years, and persons involved in the March 8 raid on an FBI office in Media, Pa.

Six persons were indicted Jan. 12 by the same grand jury here in the alleged bomb-kidnap plot. Another seven were named as co-conspirators, but were not charged.

None of the raids that seem to be of interest to the grand jury occurred in the Middle District of Pennsylvania, the only area for which this grand jury has jurisdiction. It is possible that some of them were planned here.

There is speculation among attorneys here that having been successful with this grand jury in the Harrisburg Six case, the Justice Department intends to use the grand jury to obtain evidence, not for indictments here, but for jurisdictions elsewhere.

U.S. Attorney S. John Cottone would not comment on whether the present investigation is going beyond the case of the Harrisburg Six. He confirmed that "four or five" FBI agents testified today. The only agent named was Thomas Moore of Rochester, N.Y.

The seven subpoenaed witnesses who appeared today are Paul Couming, recently convicted in Boston for not carrying a Selective Service card; Abraham and Sylvia Diamond, parents of the wife of Eqbal Ahmad, one of the six defendants in the Harrisburg Six case; Dr. Richard Drinnon, chairman of the history department at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pa.; Theresa McHugh, Temple University student and Catholic Youth Organization employee in Philadelphia; Thomas Phillips, occupational therapist aide at Hebrew Hospital for the Chronic Sick in New York and Dr. Thomas Reeves, political science professor at Mount Saint Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Md.

Motions to quash subpoenas have been filed on behalf of each of the witnesses. One of the motions, filed by the six defendants, charges that the grand jury is being used to gather evidence in support of the existing indictments. The defendants also contend that the subpoenas were issued as the result of illegal electronic surveillance.

Miss McHugh's attorney, Burton Caine, revealed in an affidavit filed here today that Joseph Tafe of the Internal Security Division of the Justice Department called him April 3 and threatened to subpoena Miss McHugh if she did not submit to an interview.

Tafe, according to the affidavit, told her attorney that she had been with a group that raided draft boards in

Probe

Philadelphia in February, 1970.

When asked the connection between the alleged raids and the Harrisburg grand jury, the affidavit says Tafe replied that the "Harrisburg grand jury wanted a total picture of the activities of people involved in the alleged plot to kidnap Henry Kissinger."

Miss McHugh, 20, one of nine children of Charles and Margaret McHugh of Philadelphia, said she has been under surveillance for a year. Her mother said yesterday she has received calls from FBI agents concerning her daughter two or three times each week for a year.

Associated Press

Witnesses called to testify before a federal grand jury in the alleged plot to kidnap Henry Kessinger wait outside the Federal Building in Harrisburg, Pa. From the left are Mrs. Abraham Diamond and Diamond, New York City; Anne Walsh, Boston; George McVey, Rochester, N.Y.; Paul Couming, Boston; and Theresa McHugh, Philadelphia.